Nordic participation in global and regional climate initiatives

How active are
Nordic countries in
the Global Climate
Action Agenda?

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Anna Laine, Roland Magnusson, Mika Sulkinen and Hanna-Mari Ahonen

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Nordic Council of Ministers

Nordens Hus

Ved Stranden 18

1061 København K

www.norden.org

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The Global Climate Action Agenda (GCAA)

Voluntary cooperative climate action and individual action on the regional and city levels has flourished in recent years, in the build-up to the Paris climate change conference in 2015 and in the subsequent two years. Cities, regions, business, non-governmental organisations and the financial sector are stepping up to complement the state-level actions with their cooperative and individual climate action initiatives.

Staying on track to meet the ambitious goals of the Paris Agreement requires enhanced climate action in all sectors and geographical locations already before the agreement is operationalised. Besides vital for enhancing pre-2020 mitigation action, non-state climate action also plays a key role in implementing the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) set by countries under the Paris Agreement. The recent decision of the United States to pull out from the Paris Agreement has underscored the importance and accelerated the pace of non-state actions, both in North America and worldwide.¹

The role of voluntary non-state action has also substantially increased in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) process, and it has been formally recognised in the decision on the Adoption of the Paris Agreement (1/CP.21),² for example in the following paragraphs:

"117. Welcomes the efforts of non-Party stakeholders to scale up their climate actions, and encourages the registration of those actions in the Non-State Actor Zone for Climate Action platform;

118. Encourages Parties to work closely with non-Party stakeholders to catalyse efforts to strengthen mitigation and adaptation action."

The following year, the Global Climate Action Agenda (GCAA) was launched at the Marrakech climate conference to further boost cooperative action between governments, cities, business, investors and citizens to achieve rapid mitigation and adaptation action.

Non-state climate actions are listed in the Non-State Actor Zone for Climate Action (NAZCA) portal³ and the Climate Initiatives Platform⁴ (CIP), presented in more detail in the box below.

NAZCA Portal and CIP

In the run-up to the Paris Conference of the Parties (COP-21), non-state climate actions were highlighted under the Lima-Paris Action Agenda,⁵ which included initiatives in 12 sectors or themes.⁶

These are included in the **Non-State Actor Zone for Climate Action (NAZCA)** portal,⁷ which was launched at the COP-20 in Lima. The NAZCA portal registers commitments to action by companies, cities, subnational regions and investors to address climate change. It contains both cooperative and individual voluntary commitments worldwide, totaling 12,549 commitments to date. The NAZCA portal contains 77 cooperative initiatives with several participants, and thousands of individual initiatives with only one participant. The portal was last updated in November 2016.

Another important portal for cooperative climate initiatives is the **Climate Initiatives Platform⁸ (CIP)** hosted by UN Environment Programme (UNEP), and financed by Netherlands and the Nordic countries. The CIP contains 224 international cooperative initiatives, of which 207 are initiatives assessed in this study (the rest are sub-initiatives of the listed initiatives, such as the 9 sectoral sub-initiatives of the LCTPi),⁹ so CIP has a more comprehensive list of cooperative initiatives than the NAZCA portal. In January 2017, the management of the CIP was taken over by UNEP DTU Partnership. The CIP is updated regularly.

Nordic priority themes

In light of Nordic priorities and expertise, the following themes are of particular interest to the Nordic countries in the context of cooperative climate action:

- **Bioeconomy** (especially forestry)
- **Sustainable cities**
- Supporting NDC implementation in **developing countries** (incl. adaptation)
- **Gender**
- **Agriculture**
- **Finance**
- **Circular economy**
- **Transparency** of mitigation and adaptation actions.

This study explores non-state climate initiatives from the Nordic perspective. It provides an overview of 220 current cooperative initiatives and their Nordic participation, and explores these initiatives from the perspective of Nordic priorities and expertise highlighted e.g. in the Nordic Green to Scale study and Nordic Ministerial initiative Nordic Solutions to Global Challenges.

Besides participating in numerous cooperative initiatives worldwide, hundreds of individual cities, regions and other non-state actors in the Nordic countries have set their own emission reduction targets and other individual climate action initiatives which are mapped in the chapter "Individual initiatives in Nordic countries".

Overview of cooperative climate initiatives

Voluntary climate initiatives that have more than one participant, from more than one country, are called international cooperative initiatives (ICIs). ICIs include several non-state actors taking voluntary action, and may also include national governments. These initiatives range from global political or technical dialogues on mitigation and adaptation to implementation initiatives engaged in concrete emission reduction or adaptation efforts. In this study, we assessed and tabled all cooperative initiatives in the CIP and NAZCA portals, and a

Figure 1: Geographical coverage of cooperative initiatives (top figure: all ICIs, bottom figure: ICIs with Nordic participation)

further 10 initiatives outside the portals. These are listed in Annex I of this report.

The ICIs have a key role in supporting the implementation of the Paris Agreement, as they often have many participants around the world both from public and private sectors, and include actions in many sectors and fields with a large geographical coverage. Of all the assessed ICIs, 75% are global in coverage, and the regional ICIs are relatively evenly spread around the globe. Latin America has the least initiatives (<2%) of all assessed ICIs. Initiatives with Nordic participation represent a greater share of global (82%) and European (9%) scope compared with the full pool of ICIs.

By far the biggest share of the ICIs is related to climate change mitigation, which is the key area for meeting the Paris Agreement emission reduction goals. Also, the Means of Implementation (MoI) for developing countries (finance, technology transfer and capacity building) is a focus area in the ICIs, even more so than climate change adaptation. Nordics are well represented across all ICIs. Nordic participation is fairly on the same level across mitigation, adaptation and MoI initiatives.

Figure 2: Cooperative initiatives by category, and the share of initiatives with Nordic participation in each category

The current cooperative initiatives spread across all sectors. Emphasis is on the energy and transport sectors which have the largest global greenhouse gas emissions worldwide; together they account for approximately 75% of global emissions.¹⁰

Figure 3: Cooperative initiatives by sector (All / with Nordic participation)

The waste sector has a relatively small role in cooperative initiatives, however it is in line with the sector's share of global greenhouse gas emissions (approximately 5%).¹¹ Figure 3 illustrates that the Nordic countries are participating in most waste sector initiatives, and also most industry initiatives. Also in sectors other than water, more than half of all cooperative initiatives in the sector have at least one Nordic participant.

Thematically, Nordic countries participate in over half of all the initiatives relating to the Nordic priority themes. Nordic participation is especially high in initiatives focusing on gender and circular economy, compared to the total number of initiatives under that theme. However, it is notable that there are very few gender initiatives globally.

Figure 4: Cooperative initiatives by Nordic focus theme (All / with Nordic participation)

There are three main types of cooperative initiatives, ranging from dialogue between participants to actual implementation and providing Means of Implementation (MoI). The largest share (56%) of the cooperative initiatives are dialogue-based, which consist of having a technical (33%) or political dialogue (23%) between different actors. The second largest share (27%) is related to MoI, providing support for developing countries through finance (7%), technology (2%) or capacity building (18%). The smallest share of initiatives (17%) relate to implementation of mitigation or adaptation actions.

Figure 5: Types of the cooperative initiatives worldwide, according to classification of the CIP portal

The initiatives have further classification in the CIP portal by their primary function and types of activities covered. By far the largest primary function in the assessed ICIs is knowledge dissemination and exchange. Campaigning and awareness raising is the second most common primary function.

Figure 6: Primary function of the cooperative initiatives (CIP classification)

Nordic actors in cooperative climate initiatives

The Nordic countries are very active participants in the cooperative initiatives globally – 61.4 % (135 initiatives) of the assessed ICIs have participation from at least one Nordic country. Comparing the total population of approximately 26.9 million in the Nordic countries with the global population of 7.5 billion, it is clear that Nordic countries have a significantly larger role than their size in the global climate action agenda. Nordic countries are active participants and funders of cooperative initiatives, but somewhat surprisingly, only a couple of the assessed initiatives are coordinated or led from a Nordic country,¹² the Haga Initiative on reducing carbon emissions from the business sector,¹³ which is led from Sweden, and two SE4All initiatives,¹⁴ which are led from UNEP in Denmark.

Nordic participation in initiatives is mapped below in the heatmap, which shows participating entity types (governments, cities, business, etc.) from each Nordic country, with the most participations marked in the darkest shade of red. Participation by type is mapped here only once – if one or more companies from the same Nordic country participate in a given initiative, this is counted as one participation (business). Where both business and cities from the same Nordic country participate in an initiative, this is marked as two participations (business, cities) by that country.

n =	Finland	Sweden	Norway	Denmark	Iceland
Governments	13	23	31	19	3
Gov. bodies	5	10	8	4	1
Cities	8	13	11	14	5
Regions	3	4	4	4	0
International organisations	1	1	0	3	0
Non-profit	3	4	5	3	0
Business	21	31	29	23	2
Research and education	3	4	5	6	0

Figure 6: Heatmap of Nordic participant types in International Cooperative Initiatives

It can be seen from the figure 6 that business is the largest participating type in Finland, Sweden and Denmark. However, in Norway, the government is the most active participator, and in Iceland, ICI participants are mostly cities. There is relatively small participation from research and education, regions, and international or non-profit organisations in all Nordic countries.

Nordic countries are also providing financing to several cooperative initiatives in which they do not participate directly. Some examples of these include:

- Adaptation of West African Coastal Areas (funded by e.g. NDF)
- Blue Growth Initiative (funded by e.g. NORAD)
- UN-REDD programme (funded by e.g. Norway)
- UNEP Partnership for Clean Fuels and Vehicles (PCFV) (Funded by e.g. Norwegian Government, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency).

The regional, thematic and sectoral coverage of Nordic participation in cooperative initiatives was assessed above in the chapter "Overview of cooperative climate initiatives".

Participation profile of each Nordic country

Finland

There is Finnish participation (government, cities, regions, business or other organisations) in a total of 56 initiatives of the assessed 220 cooperative initiatives. This means that Finland takes part, in some form, in a quarter of all cooperative initiatives worldwide. This is a large share compared to the size of the country (5.5 million inhabitants). In most of the initiatives that Finland participates in, it does so jointly with Sweden, or Swedish non-state actors (50 ICIs). With Norway, the joint participation is almost as high (48 ICIs).

Finland's long-term objective is to be carbon-neutral, which the country aims to achieve by 2045.¹⁵ The focus areas of Finland in its energy, climate and development policy have in recent years been under the following themes and sectors:¹⁶

- Bioeconomy
- Energy supply and energy efficiency
- Sustainable agriculture
- Transport and sustainable cities
- Gender
- Supporting developing countries.¹⁷

Compared to all Nordic countries in average, Finnish government or non-state Finnish actors participate in some more cooperative initiatives in the industry, agriculture and finance sectors. In the waste and water sector, Finnish participation is smaller than the Nordic average, taking into account both governmental and non-governmental participation. It is notable that all Nordic countries have a very similar participation profile regarding the sector split.

Regarding the Nordic focus themes, the state and non-state actors in Finland combined participate in slightly more initiatives under the sustainable cities, bioeconomy and finance themes, compared to the Nordic average. This is in line with the Finnish priorities. In contrast, Finnish participation is slightly less than the Nordic average under the transparency/MRV and developing country themes, and on Nordic average level in the gender theme.

Figure 7: Split of ICLs with Finnish participation across sectors, compared to all Nordic countries

Figure 8: Split of ICLs with Finnish participation across Nordic focus themes, compared to all Nordic participation

Sweden

Swedish actors take part in 91, equivalent to 41%, of the total 220 cooperative initiatives assessed for this report. In most initiatives, participation is shared with organisations from other Nordic countries, most significantly with Norway. Sweden has adopted a long-term climate target of zero net greenhouse gas emissions by 2045.¹⁸ In addition, Sweden aims to be one of the world's first fossil-free welfare nations, and aims to achieve this in 2045.¹⁹

Sweden is committed to upholding its official development assistance at 1% and to provide climate finance at increasing levels.²⁰ The focus on finance is reflected in the share of finance-related initiatives, which is larger than the Nordic average. The share of water and waste related initiatives is very low as in the other Nordic countries.

Given that waste is a major source of non-ETS emissions it is surprising that there are so few initiatives related to it at the Nordic level.²¹ Also the small share of initiatives related to industry is surprising given the very extensive expertise of low-carbon innovations the heavy industry in Sweden.²²

With respect to Nordic focus themes, the share of initiatives related to transparency and MRV and the circular economy is above the Nordic average, whereas the share of initiatives related to the bioeconomy is smaller. In line with the Nordic average, the share of initiatives related to the gender is very small.

Sweden's priority areas with respect to the provision of support to developing country Parties are as follows:²³

- Governing policies and principles
- Multilateral financial support
- Bilateral financial support
- Technology development and diffusion
- Capacity building
- Flexible mechanisms.

Of these, the focus on the provision of multilateral and bilateral financial support is reflected in the share of initiatives related to finance above the Nordic average.

Figure 9: Split of ICIs with Swedish participation across sectors, compared to all Nordic countries

Figure 10: Split of ICIs with Swedish participation across Nordic focus themes, compared to all Nordic countries

Norway

Of the Nordic countries, Norway participates in the largest number of initiatives. Norwegian organisations take part in 94 initiatives, or 43%, of the total 220 cooperative initiatives assessed for this report. In most of these initiatives, there is also participation from other Nordic organisations. Organisations from Sweden has the highest share of co-participation with Norway.

The long-term goal of Norway is being carbon neutral by 2050.²⁴ Norway's support to international climate policy falls under the following three themes:²⁵

- Norway's International Climate and Forest Initiative
- Norwegian assistance to Clean Energy
- Norwegian assistance to Climate Adaptation.

Under the International Climate and Forest Initiative, Norway makes a substantial contribution to international climate action, with a yearly budget of NOK 3 billion and with the objective to reduce emissions from deforestation and peat degradation.²⁶ However, as the Norwegian forest initiative is not listed in the CIP or NAZCA platforms and it is counted as official development assistance of Norway, therefore it is not included in the ICIs assessed in this study. The Norwegian focus on forestry is reflected in the share of initiatives related to it, which is much higher than the Nordic average. The share of initiatives related to agriculture is also higher than the Nordic average, while the share of initiatives related to urban/buildings and finance is below the Nordic average.

With respect to Nordic themes, the share of Norwegian participation in initiatives related to sustainable cities is below the Nordic average, while participation in bioeconomy, supporting developing countries and agriculture are above it.

Figure 11: Split of ICIs with Norwegian participation across sectors, compared to all Nordic countries

Figure 12: Split of ICIs with Norwegian participation across Nordic focus themes, compared to all Nordic countries

Denmark

There is Danish participation (government, cities, regions, business or other organisations) in a total of 76 initiatives of the assessed 220 cooperative initiatives. This means that Danish actors take part, in some form, in over 34% of all cooperative initiatives worldwide. This is a large share compared to the size of the country (5.7 million inhabitants). In most of the initiatives that Denmark participates in, it does so jointly with Norway, or Norwegian non-state actors (61 ICIs). With Sweden, the joint participation is almost as high (58 ICIs).

Denmark is aiming to become a fossil fuel free and low-emission society by 2050.²⁷ Denmark has also been a prominent player in financing climate action in developing countries,²⁸ through e.g. the Climate Investment Fund, which has secured EUR 174 million of public and private funds for climate investments in developing countries. The focus areas of Denmark in its energy, climate and development policy have in recent years been under the following themes and sectors:²⁹

- Adaptation
- Sustainable cities
- Fossil-free energy
- Finance
- Supporting developing countries.

Compared to all Nordic countries on average, the Danish government or non-state Danish actors participate in some more initiatives in the energy, industry and urban / construction sectors. However, Denmark is relatively less active in the initiatives in finance, forestry and waste sectors, compared to the Nordic average. This is partly in line with the Danish priorities, with the exception of finance.

Regarding the Nordic focus themes, the state and non-state actors in Denmark participate in slightly more initiatives under the sustainable cities, developing country and gender themes, compared to the Nordic average. This is quite in line with the Danish priorities. In contrast, Danish participation is less than the Nordic average under the transparency/MRV and finance themes, and on average level in the bioeconomy and agriculture themes.

Figure 13: Split of ICLs with Danish participation across sectors, compared to all Nordic countries

Figure 14: Split of ICLs with Danish participation across Nordic focus themes, compared to all Nordic countries

Iceland

State and non-state organisations from Iceland participate in 11 initiatives or 5% of the 220 cooperative initiatives assessed for this report. Interestingly, all participation is shared with organisations from other Nordic countries, with Finland and Sweden having a 100% co-participation rate. Compared with the Nordic average, there is less of initiatives related to energy and more initiatives related to urban/building, finance and transport. The lack of initiatives related to energy may be explained with abundance of renewable energy in Iceland, while the abundance of initiatives related to transport may be explained by the significance of transport as a source of GHG emissions. A Climate Change Action Plan was endorsed by the Icelandic government in 2010. Five of ten key actions outlined in it concern transport and fisheries.³⁰

With respect to Nordic themes, Icelandic participation in initiatives related to sustainable cities and finance is above the Nordic average. It is noteworthy that no organisation from Iceland is participant to initiatives related to gender or the circular economy. Iceland's Strategy for International Development Cooperation 2013–2016 contains three priority areas.³¹

- natural resources
- human capital
- peacebuilding
- gender equality (as a cross-cutting theme)
- environmental sustainability (as a cross-cutting theme).

Figure 15: Split of ICLs with Icelandic participation across sectors, compared to all Nordic countries

Figure 16: Split of ICLs with Icelandic participation across Nordic focus themes, compared to all Nordic countries

Individual initiatives in Nordic countries

In addition to the cooperative initiatives, there is a considerable number of individual initiatives by cities, regions and financing institutions in Nordic countries. In the NAZCA portal there are 146 Nordic cities, regions or financiers that have set their own individual initiatives. Many of them have multiple own initiatives, for example the city of Stockholm has 12 initiatives. In this study, each city or region is counted once, even if they would have multiple initiatives. The individual initiatives of business were left out of this assignment, but they are visible in the NAZCA portal by company (not by country).³²

As can be seen from the heatmap below, there is particularly high level of activity in cities in Sweden and Denmark, and financing institutions in Sweden. Also several cities and regions in Finland and Norway have their own initiatives.

n =	Finland	Sweden	Norway	Denmark	Iceland
Cities	9	50	9	27	2
Regions	7	7	5	3	0
International organisations	0	0	0	0	0
Non-profit	0	1	0	0	0
Financing institutions	0	16	5	4	1
Research and education	0	0	0	0	0

Figure 17: Heatmap of types of Nordic actors that have individual initiatives in the NAZCA portal

Examples of individual initiatives include the following common types:

- Reducing community-wide CO2e emissions by a certain percentage by 2020 or 2030
- Increasing energy efficiency in the community, or increasing the share of renewables in the energy mix to a certain percentage
- Issuing green bonds for projects in renewable energy, low carbon transport, energy efficiency, sustainable water management, climate adaptation and resilience.

In contrast to the cooperative initiatives, the individual initiatives are most of the implementation type – “doing” – and the rest are of financing type. This is because the initiatives are mostly concrete emission reduction or financing targets, which are implemented by a certain year. Due to their unilateral nature, they are not dialogue-based.

Figure 18: Types of the Nordic individual initiatives, according to classification of the CIP portal

Examples of individual mitigation targets of Nordic cities are illustrated below by their start and end year:

From the illustrative figure above, it can be seen that the ambition of mitigation targets for cities range from relatively low (e.g. reduction of 20% in 11 years, as in Aalesund) to very ambitious (e.g. 100% reduction in 13 years, as in Ringkøbing-Skjern). Cities also use different base years and target years in their individual initiatives. Interestingly, a large share of the city initiatives have a target year of 2020, which has a positive effect on the level of pre-2020 climate action.

Highlighted key GCAA initiatives under Nordic focus themes

Examples of key cooperative initiatives with significant Nordic participation

Themes: Sustainable Cities and Transparency/MRV

Compact of Mayors (2014 –)

Lead organisation:	Compact of Mayors, USA
Nordic participants:	Denmark (20 cities), Sweden (11 cities), Norway (6 cities), Finland (4 cities), Iceland (3 cities). Globally 681 cities participate.
Type:	Political dialogue, implementation and capacity building
Description:	<p>Consolidates cities' climate actions through consistent and transparent public reporting of greenhouse gas data. This data-driven platform will help direct resources and policies that better support and accelerate local climate actions.</p> <p>To show compliance with the Compact, cities have to pass 4 phases:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) Register commitment;2) Do a GHG Inventory;3) Create targets and establish a measurement system;4) Establish Action Plan;5) Issue a "Compliant" badge on annual basis.
Impacts, and how they are measured:	681 cities, representing 6.77% of the total global population, have committed to the Compact of Mayors. The transparency of GHG emissions increases in these cities. Measured quantitatively through data reported by the cities.

Theme: Agriculture, gender

Adaptation for Smallholder Agriculture Programme (2012 –)

Lead organisation: International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), Italy

Nordic participants: Governments of Finland, Sweden and Norway finance the global initiative, together with 7 other countries.

Type: Implementation, funding

Description: The objective of ASAP is to improve the climate resilience of large-scale rural development programmes and improve the capacity of at least 8 million smallholder farmers to expand their options in a rapidly changing environment.

Impacts, and how they are measured: Channels climate finance to small farmers: potential for gender and job creation impacts. ASAP has developed a results framework which contains 10 specific and measurable indicators of achievement.

Themes: Gender, supporting developing countries

Global Alliance of Clean Cookstoves (2010 –)

Lead organisation:	UN Foundation, USA
Nordic participants:	Governments: Denmark, Sweden. Governmental bodies: NORAD, Utviklingsfondet (Norway); Non-profit: Oikosfonden, Real Relief, The Prometheus Project (Denmark), Finnish Refugee Council (Finland), Norges Naturvernforbund, NorthFire Technology (Norway), International Cryosphere Climate Initiative (Sweden). Business: Heliac, Novozymes, TrueGrid (Denmark), Biomass Clean Cooking Group, Differ, Envag Consult, Green Development AS, Heliso AS, Metamorfose, Miombo, Morpho Solar, Prime Cookstoves (Norway), Cleancook Sweden AB, ULMA AB (Sweden). Research and educational: Stockholm Environment Institute.
Type:	Technical and Political dialogue, implementation, financing and capacity building
Description:	Seeks to mobilize high-level national and donor commitments toward the goal of universal adoption of clean cookstoves and fuels.
Impacts and how they are measured:	Impact areas defined in the initiative are environment, health, humanitarian, livelihoods and women & gender. Includes a roadmap for concerted action and measurable results.

Themes: Bioeconomy, agriculture

Roundtable on Sustainable Biomaterials (RSB Standards) (2007 –)

Lead organisation:	Roundtable on Sustainable Biomaterials, Switzerland
Nordic participants:	Business in Finland and Norway – Neste, UPM Kymmene (Finland); Eco-1 (Norway).
Type:	Technical dialogue and implementation
Description:	Provides and promotes the global standard for socially, environmentally and economically sustainable production and conversion of biomass. Provides a global platform for multi-stakeholder dialogue and consensus building. Ensures that users and producers have access to credible, practical and affordable certification. Supports continuous improvement through application of the RSB standard.
Impacts and how they are measured:	Sustainability of biomaterials is a key issue in climate change mitigation and for biodiversity. Activities are standard development and implementation of the standard through certification, in which also the impacts are measured quantitatively.

Key cooperative initiatives that Nordic countries could consider joining

Initiatives with some Nordic participation:

Themes: Developing country, finance

Africa Renewable Energy Initiative (AREI), <http://www.arei.org/>

Current Nordic participation: Government of Sweden

Participants/funders: Sweden, France, Germany, Canada, Italy, Japan, USA, UK, EU and the Netherlands committed in COP-21 to mobilizing at least 10 billion USD cumulatively from 2015 to 2020. AREI is under the mandate of the African Union, and endorsed by African Heads of State.

Type: Implementation

Description: AREI is set to achieve at least 10 GW of new and additional renewable energy generation capacity by 2020, and mobilize the African potential to generate at least 300 GW by 2030.

Impacts, and how they are measured: Criteria developed for quantitative and qualitative impact measurement.

Why join?: Africa-owned and led inclusive effort to accelerate and scale-up the harnessing of the continent's renewable energy potential. The African leaders expect it to be game changer. Potential also to increase Nordic technology and solution sales.

Themes: Bioeconomy, developing country, agriculture

Global Alliance for Climate-Smart Agriculture (GACSA)

Lead organisation:	Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO)
Participants:	182 participants, http://www.fao.org/gacsa/members/members-list/en/ of which Nordic participation from Norway and Denmark
Type:	Technical dialogue, political dialogue, capacity building
Description:	GACSA's vision is to improve food security, nutrition and resilience in the face of climate change. Action Groups on three topics: knowledge, enabling environment, investment.
Impacts, and how they are measured:	No information available.
Why join?:	Covers important themes, with potential for utilising Nordic knowledge. Finland, Sweden and Iceland could consider joining the initiative.

Themes: Transport, sustainable cities

International Zero-Emission Vehicle Alliance (ZEV Alliance)

Lead organisation:	International Council on Clean Transportation (ICCT), USA
Nordic participation:	Government of Norway
Participants:	British Columbia, California, Connecticut, Germany, Maryland, Massachusetts, The Netherlands, New York, Norway, Oregon, Québec, Rhode Island, UK, Vermont.
Description:	The ZEV Alliance is a collaboration of national and subnational governments working together to accelerate adoption of zero-emission vehicles (electric, plug-in hybrid, and fuel cell vehicles). The participants set ambitious, achievable targets for ZEV deployment, take actions to achieve those targets as appropriate in each jurisdiction, act together to achieve individual and collective targets, and encourage and support other jurisdictions in setting and achieving ambitious ZEV targets.
Impacts, and how they are measured:	Impacts are measured quantitatively, through aggregate information from member jurisdictions on tracking global ZEV sales and technology deployment.
Why join?:	Adoption of zero-emission vehicles is important for the Nordic countries, where transport emissions cover a large share of total greenhouse gas emissions. Other Nordics could join Norway in the initiative.

Annex 1:

Methodology for the assessment

Information sources

The following climate action databases were covered:

- NAZCA portal of the UNFCCC: <http://climateaction.unfccc.int/>
- Climate Initiatives Platform (CIP): <http://climateinitiativesplatform.org/>

In addition, the following news services were used in finding new initiatives:

- Environmental Finance: www.environmental-finance.com
- Carbon Pulse: <http://carbon-pulse.com/>

For each cooperative initiative, also the web pages of the initiative (if available) were used for information gathering.

Initiatives outside the CIP and NAZCA portals, which were assessed in the study include (in alphabetical order):

- America's Pledge
- Astana Communiqué on Accelerating the Uptake of Renewables in Central Asia
- Climate Mayors
- Initiative for Climate Action Transparency
- NDC Partnership
- Partnership for Market Readiness
- Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD)
- The Positive Impact initiative
- US Climate Alliance
- We Are Still In

Methodology for information collection

The information from the databases was collected to an Excel Sheet, which contains separate sheets for cooperative and individual initiatives. The "type of initiative" and "primary function" categories are directly from the CIP database. The Excel sheet contains 220 cooperative initiatives (also ones that Nordic countries do not participate in) and 146 individual Nordic initiatives. The individual initiatives are own commitments of cities, regions and investors, and do not include other participants. Individual commitments of Nordic businesses were left out of the study, but business participation is included in the assessment of cooperative initiatives.

Methodology for calculations / figures

In the Excel, one initiative can be marked in several different categories, sectors, themes or types. Because of this challenge, we used a "normalisation" method in the calculation, meaning that each initiative has the same weight, regardless of how many categories or sectors/themes the initiative is marked in. It is assumed, that each sector/theme/type has the same weight than the others.

An example of this is, if an initiative would be marked in both the energy and transport sector, it would have a weight of 50% (0.5) on energy and 50% (0.5) on transport, and these would amount to 1 initiative in the calculations. Therefore, the number of initiatives in the figures can amount to fractions instead of integers.

As there is no information available in the CIP or NAZCA portals about the size of the funding for the initiative, this information has been left out of this assessment. Therefore all initiatives have the same weight, even they are different in size.

Methodology for selecting highlighted initiatives

The highlighted initiatives in Chapter 6 of this report were selected from the Excel of 220 cooperative initiatives, by selecting initiatives that fall under at least two Nordic focus themes. The initiatives were selected to cover all different Nordic focus themes, so that the highlighted selection would be diverse.

Notes:

- 1 The withdrawal from the Paris Agreement would take at least 3 years, earliest in November 2020
- 2 Decision 1/CP.21 available at: <https://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2015/cop21/eng/10a01.pdf>
- 3 <http://climateaction.unfccc.int/>
- 4 <http://www.climateinitiativesplatform.org/>
- 5 <http://newsroom.unfccc.int/lpaa/>
- 6 LPAA themes: Agriculture, Forest, Transport, Renewable Energy, Energy Access and Efficiency, Resilience, Cities & Sub-nationals, Private Finance, Business, Innovation, Building, Short-lived climate pollutants
- 7 <http://climateaction.unfccc.int/>
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- 9 Low Carbon Technology Partnerships Initiative, <http://lctpi.wbcsd.org/>
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- 13 <https://www.hagainitiativet.se/en>
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- 15 First Medium-term climate change plan of Finland
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